

Can. Rainy River Navigation Co.

SEASON OF 1898

The Grand Tour

OF WINSOME



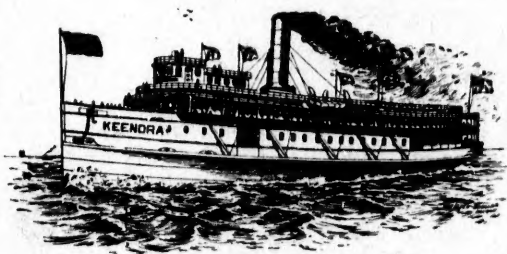
Northern Waters

LAKE OF THE WOODS

RAINY RIVER

RAINY LAKE

BY THE MAGNIFICENT NEW TOURIST



S.S. "KEENORA"

FROM RAT PORTAGE THROUGH THE
GOLD BELT OF

Northwestern Ontario

Issued by the Rainy River Navigation Co.

GEO. A. GRAHAM,
Manager,
RAT PORTAGE, Ont.

WALTER ROSS,
Genl. Passr. & Freight Agt.,
RAT PORTAGE, Ont.

THE
FAMED
REGION OF

THE LAKE OF THE WOODS



AMONGST the most picturesque water stretches of America is the famed LAKE OF THE WOODS, in Northwestern Ontario, the incomparable wealth of whose natural scenic beauty has brought it into prominence as the most delightful summering place on all the continent. These lovely northern waters are a magnificent reproduction of the celebrated Thousand Island region of the St. Lawrence, on a greatly exaggerated scale, surpassing it, perhaps, in the winsomeness and grandeur of environment and far outrivalling it in the wonderful array of islands and islets.

The Lake of the Woods is so easily accessible, and the facilities for enjoying its illimitable sources of delight so complete, that it is in constantly increasing numbers attracting large parties from the Canadian and the American West, and many from the East, who are seeking fresh fields for exploiting, and find here their highest anticipations more than fully realized.

A Perfect Climate

The attractiveness of this new region is not alone in its superb surroundings, novel and unhackneyed as many of them are, for in the Lake of the Woods can be found more fairyland loveliness, more real isolation from the bustle of life, and more roaming over nature in her primitive beauty, untouched by hand of man, with less trouble and inconvenience than can be experienced elsewhere. Its summer climate is perfect—clear, pleasant days, and cool (not chilly) nights, with pure invigorating air which brings rest to the weary, recuperation to the invalid, and adds zest to the life of those who are in quest of recreation and amusement. In the season there are unlimited opportunities for capital sport with the gun, both for large and small and feathered game; its waters teem with fish, and at no other resorts can be found better facilities for bathing and boating in absolute safety.

A Wonderful Archipelago

Five hours travel by rail from the city of Winnipeg, and about ten hours travel from Port Arthur or Fort William, on Lake Superior, will bring the pleasure-seeker to Rat Portage, the key to the most beautiful portion of the Lake of the Woods. Here he is on the margin of a lake containing myriads of islands, varying in size from the one containing a dozen or more square miles of land to the little timber crowned islet of an acre or two in area. Each has its own peculiarity of beauty in form, and each channel that penetrates this archipelagic maze its characteristics, yet all are alike beautiful ; softly so, for there are no harsh features in all the attractions of the lake.

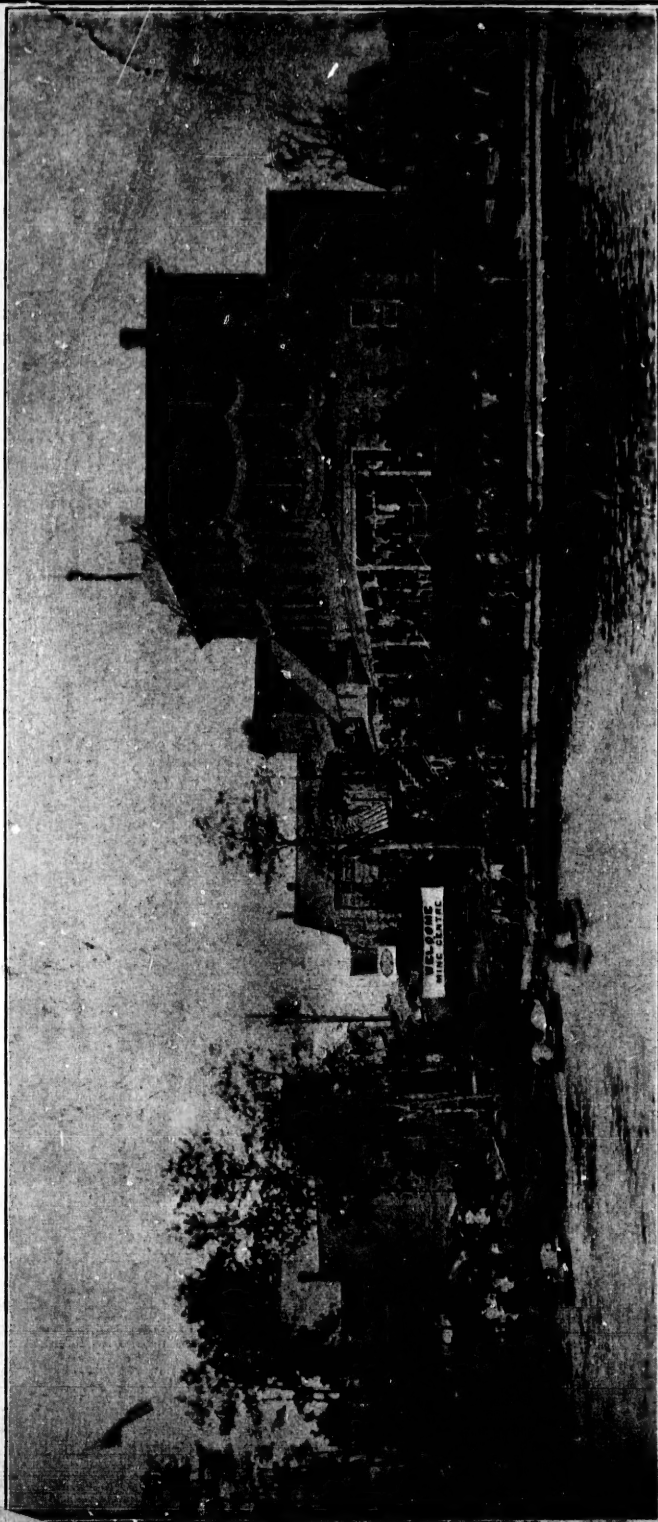


HODGE'S FARM AND DOCK, RAINY RIVER.

One can in a short row or sail past islands ornamented with handsome summer residences or occupied by gay camping parties, find himself in a seemingly land-locked sheet of beautiful clear water, surrounded by high, rising lands, covered with spruce and pine, without the first evidence of civilization or the appearance of humanity in sight. He can pass through channels and bays as varied in scenic beauty as they are bewildering in their windings through these solitudes ; and yet these marvellous hidden retreats are within an hour's distance of the express trains of Canada's great national highway by which Rat Portage is daily reached from both the Atlantic and Pacific.

A Resourceful Region

There is more to see than scenery, attractive as it is, for the lake is the great natural waterway to the gold mines of this vast region, at which visitors obtain an interesting insight into the process of developing the country's great auriferous wealth. The gold



MINE CENTRE, ON THE SEINE RIVER.

belt
Lak
Por
Reg
con
othe
opm
at t
flee
inte

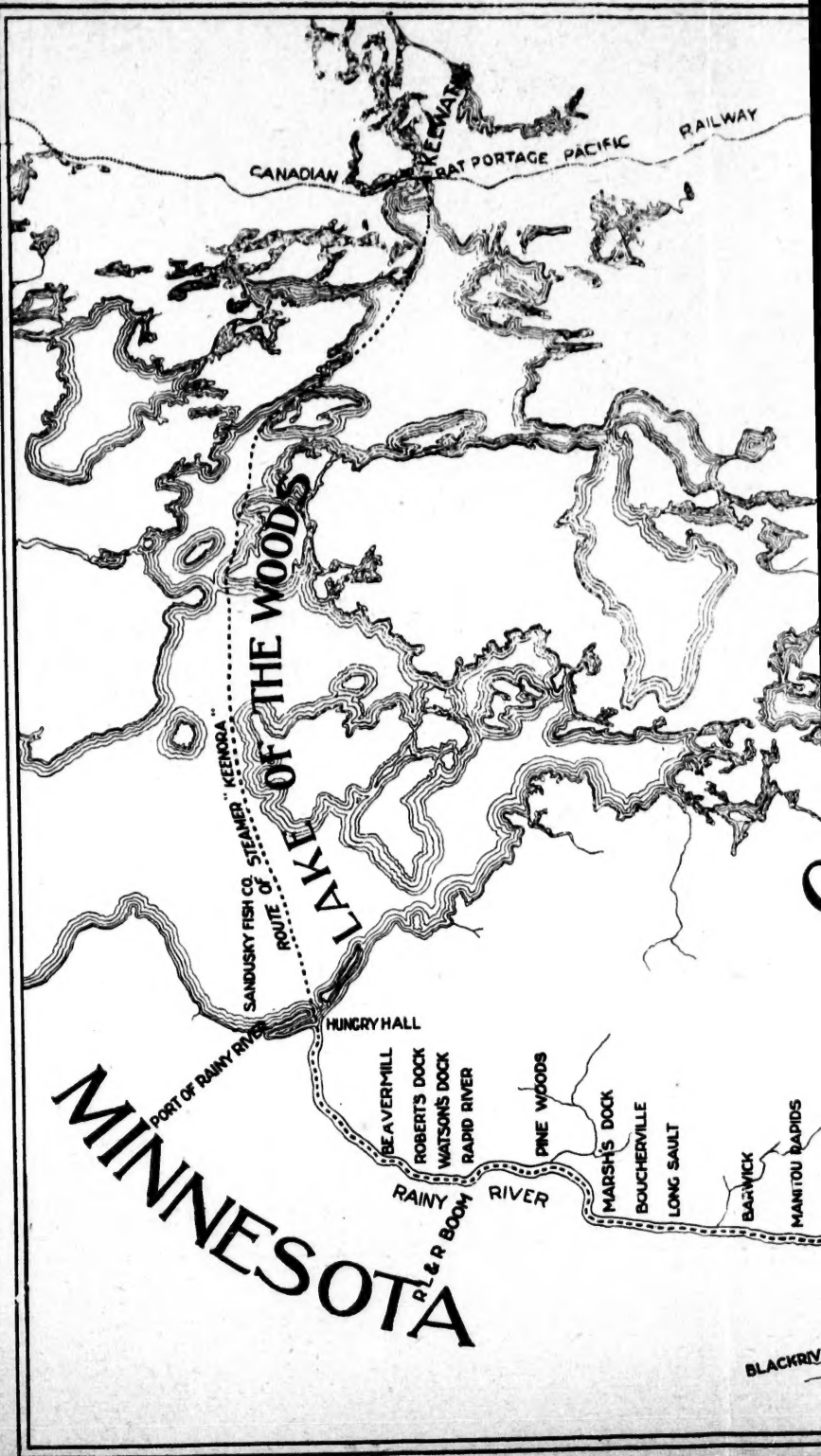
Th To

succ
enjo
wee
mag
Nav
rou
" K
attr
by
the
mon
coun
tha
Isle
thro
sur
mille
nar
ent
Hea
rese
bein
a ca
blo
nat
ludi
Ind
Sku
bac
red
Litt
isla
air
mille
is
its
wat
eno
sho

belt extends from the international boundary to north of Lake of the Woods, and within twenty-five miles of Rat Portage are several of the mines—notably the Sultana, Regina and Mikado—which give this region more than continental repute. On Rainy Lake and Seine River are other prosperous mining camps in various stages of development. Lumbering operations are extensively carried on at the north end of Lake of the Woods, whose fisheries and fleets of fishing smacks are objects of more than passing interest to strangers.

The Grand Tour

The trip through the Lake of the Woods, up Rainy River and across Rainy Lake, is admittedly the most picturesque in the world—a constant succession of pleasant surprises throughout. Its thorough enjoyment is made possible by the inauguration of a tri-weekly service during the excursion season by the magnificent new steamer "Keenora," of the Rainy River Navigation Company, which was built expressly for this route in the summer of 1897. The time-table of the "Keenora" is so arranged that not a mile of the 450 attractive ones which constitute the round trip is missed by the sightseer. What is passed during the night on the up trip is seen by daylight on the return. From the moment the steamer leaves the dock at Rat Portage the course lies through an intricacy of isles and channels that form a combination of St. Lawrence's Thousand Islands and the inner channel of Georgian Bay. Seen through the colorings of a hazy sunset, the wondrous surroundings make captive of the imagination. A few miles out is the famed "Devil's Gap"—one of the lake's narrowest passages traversed by steamers—near the entrance to which is a huge rock known as "Devil's Head," or "Skull Rock." It bears a most grotesque resemblance to a human head, the ears, eyes and mouth being plainly visible—the latter appearing in the form of a cave. The features of the image have been outlined in blood-red paint, making them more prominent than nature left them, and though thus rendered somewhat ludicrous, the stone is held in deep reverence by the Indians, who have a legend that this "Rock of the Skull" is the petrified head of a great warrior who came back from their happy hunting grounds to protect the red tribes against extermination by the whites. The Little Traverse is crossed, and after another group of islands is penetrated, there is a breath of even fresher air in making the Big Traverse—an expanse of thirty miles. At daybreak the mouth of the Rainy River is entered, and for eighty miles the steamer forces its way against the strong current of one of the noblest water courses in Ontario. Of uniform width, with enough of curve and angle to give variety, its tree-lined shores on the American side and its farm-fringed bank



PACIFIC RAILWAY

ONTARIO

MARSH'S DOCK
BOUCHERVILLE
LONG SAULT
BARWICK
MANTOU RAPIDS
EWO
SMITHVILLE
BLACK RIVER
HANNAFORD
BIG ROCK
ISHERWOOD
WATTSVILLE
FORT CAUCHISHING
RAINY LAKE
FAIRY MOUNTAIN

on the Canadian side, with the sweep of dark waters between, completes a fine scenic picture. The panorama from the steamer's deck is uniquely interesting, the conical tepees of the red men alternating with an occasional log house of a chief or a councillor, and the substantial farm houses of the settlers. Bordering the river are a series of strange artificial hills which tradition ascribes to the vanished mound builders, and the fact that they contain pottery and implements, totally unknown to the Indian, is an evidence of their pre-Indian age. The passage of the Sault and Manitou rapids is an interesting feature of the trip; and at Fort Francis, where the waters of Rainy Lake pour over the great foaming cascade, known as the Falls of Couchiching, the "Keenora" reaches the southern terminus of its run.



COUCHICHING FALLS, FORT FRANCIS.

Fort Francis is a pleasantly situated village, where are located the famed Government locks, the construction of which was commenced over a quarter of a century ago and never completed, but the Dominion Government have now decided to finish the work. The town possesses good hotel accommodation.

The Beauties of Rainy Lake

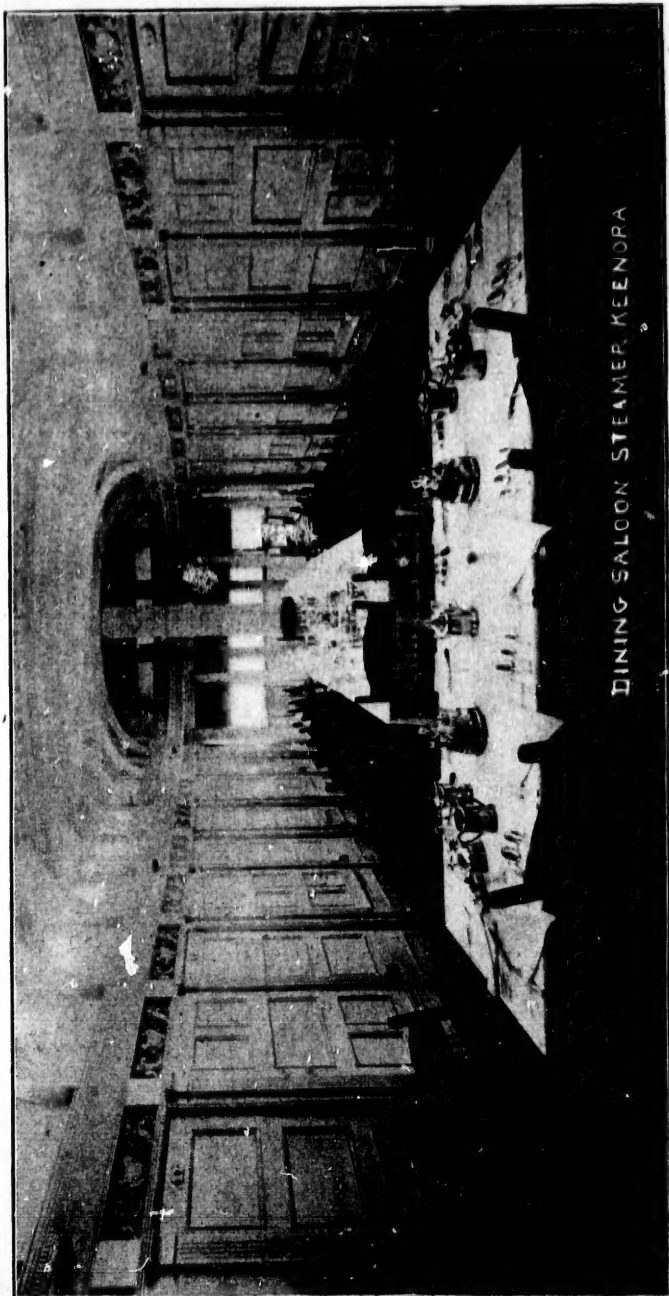
Connection is made at Fort Francis with Mosher & Coates' steamers, "Alberton" and "Maple Leaf," which run to Mine Centre, Bell City, Foley, Rainy Lake City, Seine City, and all other points on Rainy Lake, through scenery which is almost a reproduction of that which gives that indescribable charm to the Lake of the Woods. The route is across the island-dotted lake and up the winding channels of Seine River to Shoal Lake, on which the new mining town, so aptly named Mine Centre, is prettily located on a little arm running out into the lake. Around Mine Centre cluster a number of valuable mining properties within a radius of eight miles, among which are the Foley, Olive, Randolph, Ferguson,

ters
ama
the
an
the
the
radi-
the
ally
pre-
pids
ncis,
reat
the
run.



are
on of
ago
ment
own

Fort
ates'
Maple
entre,
other
ost a
harm
land-
er to
amed
g out
er of
niles,
ason,



DINING SALOON STEAMER KEENORA

Lucky Coon, A.D. 2, Alice A., Swede and Turtle, all being working propositions. These mines are easily reached from Mine Centre, from which a trip can be made up the Seine to Sturgeon Falls, a pretty sheet of water 18 miles east. Mine Centre possesses a new and elegantly furnished hotel, which affords a desirable resting place for tourists. The hotel is unexcelled in its appointments and service, and there is capital fishing and shooting in the locality, which offers a comparatively new field for sportsman.

The S.S. "Keenora"

The magnificent steamer "Keenora" is a staunchly-built vessel on which about \$60,000 has been judiciously expended. The length of keel is 120 feet, and 127 feet over all; width 31 feet over the guards, and depth of hold 9½ feet. The hull is built entirely of steel, and the upper works of wood. In the hold is powerful machinery comprising 250 horse-power boiler and two fore and aft compound engines of 225 horse-power combined, which drive two 58-inch screws 175 revolutions per minute each, giving a speed of 15 miles per hour. There is also a smaller engine for driving a 120-light electric dynamo, by which the steamer is brilliantly illuminated throughout. The finish and fittings are the most modern in every respect, and travel by her is a luxury, the dining saloon being artistically arranged and special attention is paid to the cuisine.



RAT PORTAGE.

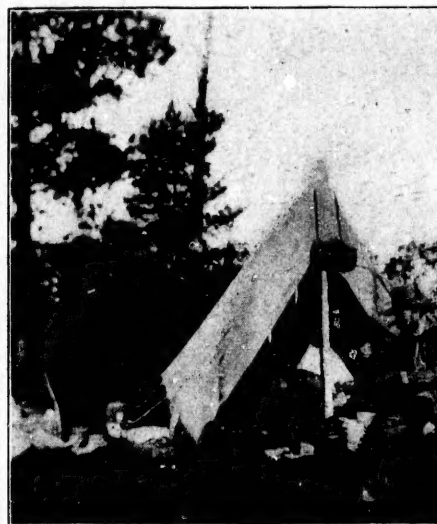
Rat Portage and Vicinity

Rat Portage is a prosperous town of 6,000 population, 133 miles east of Winnipeg and 293 miles west of Fort William. A little to the west of the business portion of the town, the waters of the lake flow in a magnificent stream through a rocky gorge, which, within a few minutes walk, forms the beautiful falls of Ka-Ka-bitchewan, a spot which should be visited. Norman and Keewatin are adjacent villages, the former, which is actually a suburb of Rat Portage, having been the scene of an historic Indian battle. At Keewatin are immense flouring mills which rank amongst the largest in

the world, and the dam of a power utilizing the waters of the lake in transmission to Winnipeg. There are works, one at Rat Portage and one at all ores are scientifically treated and the ton or purchased; and all kinds of comforts and several hotels of large capacity for the tourist trade.

How to Reach the Lake of the Woods

Rat Portage is either west or east of the Pacific express trains run daily between the coasts. There are also special trains running to Rat Portage from St. Paul, and



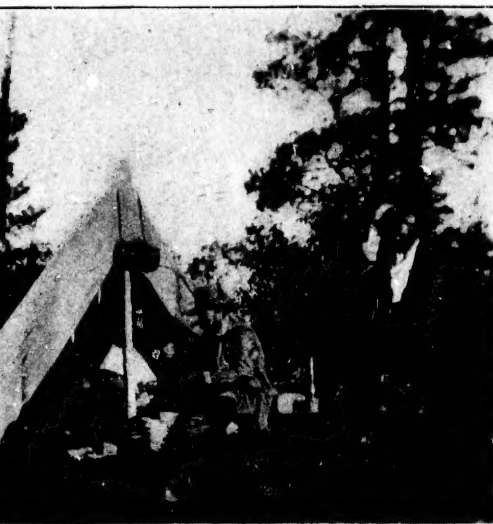
BREAKFAST IN CAMP.
BIGSTONE BAY, LAKE OF THE WOODS.

and other points in the middle West. There is a choice of routes, either all-rail via Duluth and steamer across Lake Superior to Arthur and Fort William by Northern Company (Beatty Line) Steamers, "Monarch," or Boeth Line Steamers. A connection is made with the western Canadian Pacific Railway. From Toronto there are several routes—one by the main line along the picturesque shores of Lake Superior by rail to Sault Ste. Marie, where a connection is made through the whole length of Lake Superior to Fort William; and a third by Lakes Superior and Huron by the steamers of the Canadian

the dam of a power company which is
ters of the lake in generating power for
Winnipeg. There are two gold reduction
Rat Portage and one at Keewatin, where
ntifically treated and ores are treated by
hased; and all kinds of business establish-
ral hotels of large capacity which cater to

ach the e Woods

Rat Portage is reached
either from the east or
west by the Canadian
Pacific Railway, whose fast
un daily between the Atlantic and Pacific
e also special trains run from Winnipeg, and
vice from St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth



BREAKFAST IN CAMP.
BIGSTONE BAY, LAKE OF THE WOODS.

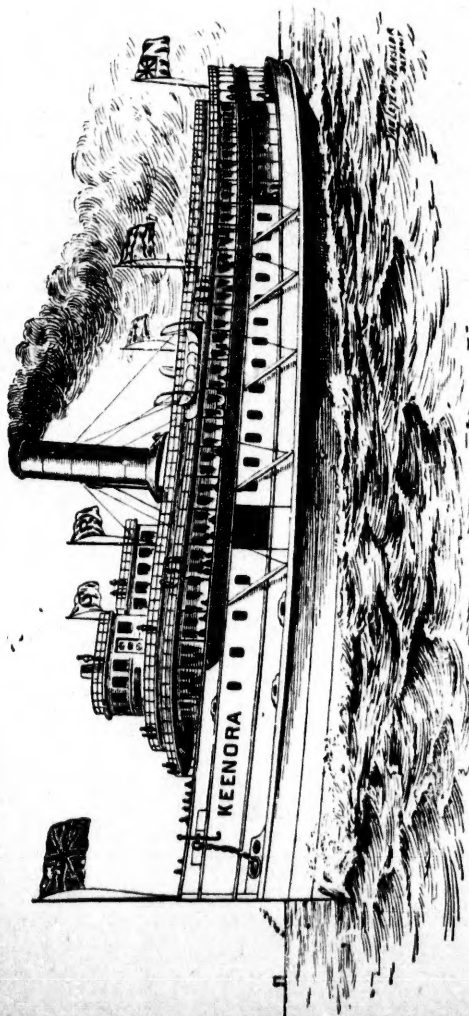
ts in the middle Western States. There is
tes, either all-rail via Winnipeg, or by rail
steamer across Lake Superior to Port
ort William by Northwest Transportation
ty Line) Steamers, "United Empire" and
Booth Line Steamer, "Dixon," where
made with the westbound trains of the
c Railway. From Toronto, Montreal, and
rn Canada and the Eastern States, there
es—one by the main line of the C. P. R.,
resque shores of Lake Superior; another
ult Ste. Marie, where steamer is taken
hole length of Lake Superior to Fort
a third by Lakes Huron and Superior,
ers of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.,

which sail from Owen Sound on Georgian Bay to Port
Arthur and Fort William, or by the steamers of the
Northwest Transportation Company (Beatty Line), which
sail between Windsor, Sarnia, Port Arthur, Fort William
and Duluth. The Georgian Bay & Lake Superior Steam-
ship Lines' Steamers, "Majestic" and "City of Colling-
wood," also run between Collingwood, Owen Sound, Port
Arthur, Fort William and Duluth. The lake trip on any
of these magnificent steamers is a delightful one—a fitting
prelude to the charming outing on the fairest of all
waters—the far-famed Lake of the Woods.

For tickets, rates, etc., apply to agents of the Canadian
Pacific Railway, the Northwest Transportation Co., Booth
Line, Duluth, or to

WALTER ROSS,

Gen. Pass'r and Freight Agent,
RAT PORTAGE, ONT.



The Steamer "Keenora" will leave Rat Portage at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and
Saturdays for Fort Francis and intermediate ports, making close connection at Fort
Francis the following day with Rainy Lake steamers for Mine Centre, Foley's, Seine
City, Rainy Lake City, Bell City and all points on Rainy Lake. Passengers by the
Keenora will reach their destination on Rainy Lake within 24 hours from Rat Portage.
Returning the Steamer "Keenora" will leave Fort Francis Thursdays and Sundays.
Tri-weekly trips will be made during the excursion season.